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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

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RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 1343

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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USD:SOLIC// IMMEDIATE

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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J-3:JOD// IMMEDIATE

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J-1//J-3:JOD// IMMEDIATE

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RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

RHMFIS/HQ USSOUTHCOM J3 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 6762

RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 0929

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 091076

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/24/2018

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KFLO](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [AMGT](#) [GG](#)

SUBJECT: TFGG01: GEORGIA TASK FORCE SITUATION REPORT NO.

38

CLASSIFIED BY: RICHARD N. LYONS, S/ES-O, REASONS 1.4 (B)  
AND (D)

SAAKASHVILI GIVES FIRST DOMESTIC SPEECH ON CONFLICT

11. (SBU) The Georgian president attempted to explain what led to the armed conflict with Russia. (TF/Embassy Tbilisi telcon)

EAST-WEST RAILWAY RE-OPENS FOLLOWING TRAIN EXPLOSION

12. (SBU) The British Ambassador, after a visit to the site, told post he believed the cause of the August 24 explosion west of Gori was from an ammunition dump rather than a landmine. (TF/Embassy Tbilisi telcon, Reuters)

RUSSIANS REMAIN NEAR POTI, COULD INTERFERE WITH AID

13. (SBU) The Defense Attach will travel to Poti to assess the location of Russian checkpoints and whether the port can be used by ships carrying humanitarian assistance. (TF/Embassy Tbilisi telcon)

¶4. (U) Russian Colonel General Nogovitsyn suggested U.S. ships carrying humanitarian aid in the Black Sea would worsen tensions. (AP)

RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES INDEPENDENCE RESOLUTION  
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¶5. (U) The Federation Council and State Duma voted unanimously to recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states. (Reuters)

USS MCFAUL AT BATUMI; FOOD RATIONS TO CEASE; IDPs RETURN  
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¶6. (S) Thirty pallets of aid arrived August 24; another 52 pallets are expected August 25. USCGC DALLAS is expected August 26. (TF/EUCOM e-mail)

¶7. (SBU) DoD conducted 5 flights August 24 with 107 tons of aid. Flights carrying humanitarian food rations will cease August 27. A plan for longer term food assistance is being assessed. (TF/Embassy Tbilisi telcon, TF/EUCOM e-mail)

¶8. (SBU) The GOG reports 10,000 internally displaced people returned to Gori, despite reports of unexploded ordnance in the area. (TF/Embassy Tbilisi telcon)

U/S JEFFERY, CINDY MCCAIN ON TWO-DAY VISITS TO TBILISI  
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¶9. (SBU) The Under Secretary arrives August 25; Mrs.

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McCain arrives August 26.  
(TF/Embassy Tbilisi telcon)

¶10. (U) MINIMIZE CONSIDERED  
RICE